

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph [0048] with the following paragraph:

[0048] As shown in FIG. 5A, a chosen path 500 may already be selected between a source node and a destination (i.e., node A 505 and node E 525 in FIG. 5A) prior to key transport, with the illustrated chosen path 500 including a path from node A 505 to node B 510, node B 510 to node C 515, node C 515 to node D 520, and node D 520 to node E 525. In some implementations, for example, the chosen path 500 may be selected in accordance with the exemplary routing protocols and algorithms disclosed in U.S. Patent Application No. \_\_\_\_\_ 10/799177 (~~Attorney Docket No. 03-4019~~), entitled “Systems and Methods for Implementing Routing Protocols and Algorithms for Quantum Cryptographic Key Transport.”

Please replace paragraph [0080] with the following paragraph:

[0080] The exemplary process may begin with the determination of a path from a source node (e.g., QKD endpoint 105a) to a destination node (e.g., QKD endpoint 105b) in QKD sub-network 115 [act 1205](FIG. 12). In some implementations, for example, the path may be selected in accordance with the exemplary routing protocols and algorithms disclosed in co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. \_\_\_\_\_ 10/799177, (~~Attorney Docket No. 03-4019~~), entitled “Systems and Methods for Implementing Routing Protocols and Algorithms for Quantum Cryptographic Key Transport.” After determination of the path, the source node may send a KEYRES message 920 to each intermediate node, and the destination node, along the determined path [act 1210]. The KEYRES message 920 may include a source node identifier 925 that identifies, for example, QKD endpoint 105a as the originator of the message. The KEYRES message 920 may further include a node identifier 930 for a previous hop along the path and a job number 935 for a request sent to a previous hop along the path.